

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

(1.)

A set of executable instructions operable to generically render a table for output processing, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a table having one or more cells wherein each cell spans one or more columns and one or more rows;

representing the table as a geometric grid wherein one or more positions within the grid house one or more of the cells; and

10

providing a generic table represented by one or more formatting commands operable to provide a rendering of the grid to one or more output media.

(2.)

The instructions of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

parsing a dimension associated with each cell from the table and associating the dimension with each cell in the grid.

(3.)

The instructions of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

processing the formatting commands to output a rendition of the table on a paged medium.

(4.)

The instructions on claim 1, wherein the table is received in extensible style sheets language.

(5.)

The instructions of claim 1, wherein the grid is a rectangle.

(6.)

The instructions of claim 5, wherein the rectangle is represented as a two dimensional array.

7.)

The instructions of claim 1, wherein the formatting commands include one or more relative positions of each cell to one another.⁸⁾ A set of executable instructions operable to produce formatting commands to render a table, comprising the steps of:

5

decoupling one or more cells from a table;

storing the cells in a matrix;

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expressing a dimension associated with each cell in terms of each cell's relative position to each other within the matrix; and

outputting one or more formatting commands operable to produce a rendition of the table on a output media from the matrix.

9.)

The instructions of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

executing the formatting commands wherein every cell occupying a single row is rendered to the output media independent of each other.

10.)

The instructions of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

processing the formatting commands vertically on the output media beginning with a first row and continuing to a last row.

11.)

The instructions of claim 8, wherein the cells are decoupled from the table by parsing the table represented by a first format.

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12. The instructions of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
adjusting the dimensions of each cell based on an output media dimension.

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13. The instructions of claim 8, wherein the output media dimension is configurable.

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14. The instructions of claim 8, further comprising:

executing the formatting commands in parallel to produce the rendition of the table on the output media.
15. A set of executable instructions operable to produce a rendition of a table, comprising the steps of:

5 representing one or more cells of a table with one or more executable commands wherein each command has one or more parameters defining an outputted cell's dimensions on an output media; and

10 executing the commands in parallel to produce a rendition of the table on the output media.

16. The instructions of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

reformatting the cells of the table to define a dimension of each cell by a relative position of each cell to one another.

15. The instructions of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

parsing the cells from the table wherein the table is represented by a first format.

16. The instructions of claim 15, wherein the first format is extensible style sheets language.

17. The instructions of claim 15, wherein the output media is a printed page.

18. The instructions of claim 15, the table and the rendition of the table have different dimensions.